

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 43RD TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION - CONGRESS OF
MICRONESIA PRESS RELEASE OF CLOSING REMARKS

NEW YORK--JULY 8, 1976--(CONGRESS RELEASE)--MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TODAY PRESENTED THEIR CLOSING REMARKS
TO THE 43RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, AND REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND
SETIK DELIVERED THEIR SPEECHES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
CLOSING DAY OF THE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS ON THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK, WHO SPOKE FIRST, TOUCHED UPON THE
SUBJECTS OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, DECEN-
TRALIZATION, AND THE SURTAX MEASURE WHICH WAS NULLIFIED BY
SECRETARIAL ORDER.

SENATOR NAKAYAMA DELIVERED REMARKS CONCERNING MICRONESIAN
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UNITY, THE DRAFT COMPACT, AND THE CONSTITUTION, WAR CLAIMS,

THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND THE SERVICE TO SAIPAN AIR ROUTE CASE.

IN HIS REMARKS, SETIK RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS BY FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. HE NOTED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AS "POLITICAL LEADERS" HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE THE PLAN WAS "FULLY" CARRIED OUT.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT WITH REGARD TO TAXATION MEASURES CONSIDERED UNDER THE PLAN, THAT THE "LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE" WOULD BE TO "MAKE EACH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT SELF SUPPORTING" IN ORDER TO BETTER USE U.S. GRANT FUNDS FOR INCOME PRODUCING PROJECTS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF DECENTRALIZATION, HE STATED AGAIN THAT THE CONGRESS WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE, AND THAT IN FACT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA "FIRST INITIATED THE CONCEPT BY A REPORT OF ONE OF ITS COMMITTEES IN 1969."

SETIK REITERATED THAT DECENTRALIZATION SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED FOR IN THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION, AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE APPROACHED "WITH HASTE, BUT WITH DELIBERATE SPEED AS WE SEE OUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES TO WARRANT IT."

HE EXPRESSED THE CONCERN THAT THE U.S. COULD PUSH FOR DECENTRALIZATION OUT OF "EXPEDIENCY" SAYING SUCH A MOVE WOULD POSSIBLY BE "DISRUPTIVE" TO MICRONESIAN UNITY.

WITH REGARD TO DECISION MAKING, HE RESTATED THAT DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON -- NOT SAIPAN -- SAYING THAT "WHILE WE REGRET TO BRING THIS INTERNAL MATTER BEFORE THE COUNCIL, WE FEEL OBLIGED TO DO SO, SINCE IT WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, MR. ZEDER WHO CITED THE SUMMARY DISMISSAL OF ONE OF OUR SENIOR MICRONESIAN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS."

SETIK SAID THAT WHILE THEY DID NOT HAVE ALL THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION, DISTADS ARE SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND WHILE THERE WAS NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT THE CONGRESS BE CONSULTED, IT APPEARED IN RETROSPECT THAT THE DECISION SHOULD HAVE "REQUIRED CLOSE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION."

CONTINUING, HE STATED THAT IN THE PAST THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WAS CONSULTED ABOUT CHANGES IN "HIGH LEVEL

EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS HELD BY EXPATRIATES (AND ONE WOULD THEREFORE WONDER WHY IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE NO SIMILAR CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE."

ON THE SURTAX ISSUE, HE NOTED THAT IT CONTINUED TO BE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S POSITION THAT TAXES "SHOULD APPLY EQUALLY... AND SHOULD MAKE NO EXCEPTION TO THOSE PERSONS OR COMPANIES WHO MAY BE PRESENT IN MICRONESIA" BECAUSE OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA BEGAN HIS STATEMENT BY DISCUSSING THE DRAFT COMPACT OF ASSOCIATION AND THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT INITIALLING THE DRAFT COMPACT IN NO WAY WAS BINDING TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND THAT IT WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE NEW COMMISSION ON STATUS AND TRANSITION.

ON THE CONSTITUTION, SENATOR NAKAYAMA SAID THAT "WE ARE STILL OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CONSTITUTION WOULD PROTECT THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS" STATED BY PETITIONERS FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND PALAU, AND THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AS SUGGESTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATE WOULD BE "CAREFULLY CONSIDERED."

NAKAYAMA ADDED HOWEVER, THAT "IT IS NOT YET TIME TO RUSH IN WITH AMENDMENTS BEFORE THE CONSTITUTION IS UNDERSTOOD" AND BEFORE THE COMPACT WAS WORKED OUT.

SENATOR NAKAYAMA THEN DEALT IN LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT OF MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF "A MEANS OF ENRICHING A FEW MICRONESIANS FOR THEIR WAR CLAIMS"
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BUT THAT "JUSTICE AND EQUITY DEMAND" THAT MICRONESIANS BE FULLY COMPENSATED. HE POINTED OUT THAT MICRONESIANS WERE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, AND HAD SUFFERED THE LOSS OF PROPERTY, LIFE AND LIMB.

HE CONTINUED THAT SAYING THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD ENACTED A BILL TO CREATE A WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE U.S. AND JAPAN BUT IT HAD BEEN VETOED; THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAD TRIED TO TALK WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

BUT, HE NOTED, THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTED MICRONESIAN

CLAIMS, THE REQUEST WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE ATTENTION.

NAKAYAMA RELATED THAT THE PARTIAL PAYMENT OF 16 PERCENT WITH A RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND THE SHORTFALL OF FUNDS WAS "ADDING INSULT TO INJURY" AND NOTED THAT THE WAR CLAIMS MEASURE WHICH DID NOT PASS THE U.S. CONGRESS THIS YEAR, FAILED BECAUSE IT WAS ATTACHED TO THE COVENANT AS A RIDER AND WAS NOT PRESENTED AS A SEPARATE MEASURE.

CONCLUDING ON THE WAR CLAIMS MATTER, HE ASKED THAT "OUR POSITION AND OUR DESIRE BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL."

SENATOR NAKAYAMA THEN TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ISSUE, SAYING THAT "OUR POSITION HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE COUNCIL, AND THAT IT IS WELL UNDER-STOOD EVIDENCED BY THE LACK OF QUESTION" ON THAT MATTER.

"CONSIDERING THE PROVISIONS OF...THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, WE THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO FAVORABLE SUPPORT FROM THIS COUNCIL...", HE SAID.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT THEN THANKED THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ON THE JAPAN-SAIPAN AIR ROUTE CASE, AND EXPRESSED HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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GRATITUDE ON LEARNING THAT AIR MICRONESIA HAD BEEN AWARDED THE ROUTE.

IN CLOSING, HE THANKED THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONCERN, NOTING THAT THE REMARKS OF THE MICRO-NESIAN ADVISORS DID NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH THOSE OF THE U.S. OR THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION.

"YOU CAN BE SURE THAT OUR COMMENTS ARE SINCERE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN NATURE. WE ...OBSERVE THAT DISENT...IS ONE OF THE RIGHTS PRESERVED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE (UNITED STATES). THIS FACT HAS NOT BEEN LOST ON US. WE THEREFORE OWE OUR GRATITUDE TO THE ADMINISTER-ING AUTHORITY FOR ALLOWING US TO BE HERE, AND TO PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA," HE ENDED.

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